

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 1, 4–19 and 21–23 are pending. Claim 3 was previously cancelled and claims 2 and 20 are cancelled by this paper. Accordingly, claims 1, 4–11 and 21–23 are under consideration and claims 12–19 are withdrawn from consideration due to restriction/election.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 4, 5 and 20. Since the claims are now limited to the subject matter which has been allowed, all rejections are moot. Applicants' amendment of the claims is not to be construed as acquiescence to any rejection.

Amendments

Amended claim 1 is supported by original claims 4 and 5.

Claims 9–11 are amended to use claim language that is consistent with the language used in claim 1 and which conforms to conventional US practice for method claims. The amendment of claims 9 and 10 does not narrow the scope of the claims. Amended claim 11 incorporates the subject matter of claim 20, which is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The amendment of claims 21–23 (i.e., change in dependency) is deemed to be self-explanatory.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not recite new matter. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Oath

A supplemental oath is enclosed herewith, rendering the objection thereof moot.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,
/Anthony J. Zelano/

Sagun KC, L0510
Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

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